

REMARKS

The Official Action mailed June 12, 2003, has been received and its contents carefully noted. This response is filed within three months of the mailing date of the Official Action and therefore is believed to be timely without extension of time. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully submit that this response is being timely filed.

The Applicants note with appreciation the consideration of the Information Disclosure Statements filed on June 14, 2001, October 23, 2002, and March 20, 2003. A further IDS is submitted herewith and consideration of this IDS is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-50 were pending in the present application prior to the above amendment. Claims 51-60 have been added to recite additional protection to which the Applicants are entitled. Accordingly, claims 1-60 are now pending in the present application, of which claims 1, 11, 21, 31, 41 and 51 are independent. For the reasons set forth in detail below, all claims are believed to be in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

Paragraph 1 of the Official Action rejects claims 1-50 as anticipated by U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0008286 to Yamazaki et al. In the Official Action mailed June 12, 2003, it is indicated that the *Submission of Verification of Translation* of JP 2001-057224, originally filed April 14, 2003, was not considered (page 4, Paper No. 16). In response, the Applicants resubmit the verified translation of JP '224. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-50 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) are in order and respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable to place this application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicants' undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,


Eric J. Robinson
Reg. No. 38,285

Robinson Intellectual Property Law Office, P.C.
PMB 955
21010 Southbank Street
Potomac Falls, Virginia 20165
(571) 434-6789